

response, Applicants provisionally elect the invention of group I (claims 1-3 and 12-17) *with traverse*.

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the restriction requirement at least insofar as groups I and II are concerned. The stated basis for the Restriction Requirement, in the sentence bridging pages 2-3 that the "inventions as claimed do not encompass overlapping subject matter," appears to be in error. Specifically, claim 4 (allegedly drawn to the group II invention) depends from and incorporates the limitations of claim 1 (allegedly drawn to the group I invention). A dependent claim and the claim from which it depends necessarily encompass overlapping subject matter. Accordingly, no sufficient basis has been articulated for restricting among the group I and group II inventions. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the restriction requirement and examination of groups I and II (claims 1-17) at this time.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above remarks, early notification of a favorable consideration is respectfully requested.

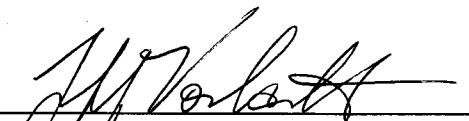
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Respectfully submitted,

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